

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /082 W

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R 220108Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0875

FOL MSG FM SURABAYA BEING REPEATED TO YOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV ID

SUBJECT: NEW OUTLOOK IN CENTRAL JAVA

1. I SPENT THE WEEK OF JANUARY 13 TRAVELLING IN CENTRAL JAVA, CALLING ON THE NEW ACTING GOVERNOR (SUPARDJO RUSTAM), UNIVERSITY RECTORS, AND CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS IN SEMARANG, SOLO, YOGYA AND POINTS BETWEEN. STILL INTROVERTED AND INTROSPECTIVE, THE PROVINCE REMAINS MORE CONCERNED WITH ITS RICH CULTURE AND HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE THAN WITH CONCRETE PLANS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BUT NEW WINDS ARE BLOWING, STIMULATED BY THE NEW ACTING GOVERNOR AND FANNED BY WIDESPREAD ENVY OF THE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS MADE BY EAST JAVA OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. A COMMON REFRAIN AMONG ALL I INTERVIEWED WAS THE HOPE THAT CENTRAL JAVA COULD WIN BACK FOR "KEJAWEN" ("JAVA PROPER") THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOW HELD BY "THE MADURESE" IN EAST JAVA.

2. CENTRAL JAVA OFFICIALDOM IS IN A STAGE OF INTELLECTUAL FERMENT AND IS SEEKING ADVICE ON SETTING GOALS AS WELL AS DETERMINING METHODS TO ACHIEVE THEM. THE PRIMARY GOAL IS "INDUSTRIALIZATION"

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TO ABSORB MOUNTING POPULATION AND PARTICULARLY UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

THE NEW ACTING GOVERNOR IS UNUSUALLY SENSITIVE TO CURRENTS OF STUDENT DISCONTENT, SINCE HE SERVED RECENTLY AS AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA. I KNEW HIM FAIRLY WELL WHEN HE SERVED AS CHIEF OF THE DEPLU ASIA/PACIFIC DIRECTORATE IN 1966-68, AND HE DISPENSED WITH JAVANESE PLATITUDES AND SPOKE FRANKLY DURING MY CALL. HE SAID HE WAS "STARTING FROM SCRATCH," THAT CENTRAL JAVA SEEMED TO BE AT THE SAME STAGE AS EAST JAVA IN 1969 --- EXCEPT FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS --- THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING A "STRAIGHT ANSWER" FROM HIS STAFF, WHO HAD "NO PLANNING DOCUMENTS, NO STUDIES, NO MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE." THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HAD TO FEEL HIS WAY CAUTIOUSLY AMONG THE THREE PARALLEL POWER STRUCTURES OF THE PROVINCE: THE DIPONEGORO DIVISION, PERTAMINA, AND THE SEMI-CLANDESTINE POLITICAL HIERARCHIES WHICH ENVELOP THE "KEBATINAN" MYSTICAL SOCIETIES. THESE STRUCTURES INTERFACE WITH POWERFUL INTERESTS IN JAKARTA, AND AS A RESULT THE GOVERNOR IS NEVER SURE WHETHER ONE OF HIS DIRECTIVES WILL BE OBSERVED, OR PERHAPS COUNTERMANDED BY A MINISTRY IN JAKARTA WHICH HAS NO BUSINESS GETTING INVOLVED. UNTIL HE LEARNS "THE RIGHT BUTTONS TO PUSH," THE GOVERNOR SAID, HE CANNOT OVERCOME THE "IRRATIONAL" ATTITUDES WHICH STILL DOMINATE CENTRAL JAVA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS.

3. THE GOVERNOR IS QUITE ANXIOUS FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM ALL SOURCES, PARTICULARLY THE USG. HE GRILLED ME INTENSIVELY ON USAID AND VOLAG PROJECTS IN CENTRAL JAVA, AND ASKED ABOUT THE METHODS USED BY GOVERNOR NOER TO ATTRACT INDUSTRY AND RECRUIT FOREIGN EXPERTS. HE WANTED TO KNOW THE LOCATION AND FUNCTIONS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN NOW WORKING IN CENTRAL JAVA, IN THE HOPE OF SECURING THEIR ADVICE. HE HOPES TO UPGRADE DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY IN SEMARANG AND USE IT AS HIS "PLANNING STAFF," BOTH TO BENEFIT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND GIVE THE DIPONEGORO STUDENTS A FEELING OF PARTICIPATION IN PROVINCE AFFAIRS.

4. I WAS QUITE IMPRESSED BY GOVERNOR SUPARDJO, NOT ONLY FOR HIS OBVIOUS DRIVE AND SENSE OF PURPOSE, BUT ALSO FOR HIS ACUTE PERCEPTION OF THE VESTED "IRRATIONAL" INTERESTS WHICH HE WILL HACHMTO NEUTRALIZE OR WIN OVER IN ORDER TO LLAD CENTRAL JAVA IN THE "NEW DIRECTIONS" HE HOPES TO PURSUE. HE ASKED ME TO PROVIDE HIM QUIETLY WITH DATA ON EAST JAVA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SAID HE PARTICULARLY WANTED AMERICAN HELP FOR DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY IN SEMARANG AND SUDIRMAN UNIVERSITY IN PURWOKERTO. HE IS ALSO QUITE ANXIOUS FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM TO VISIT
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SEMARANG, AND WILL BE IN JAKARTA FROM FEBRUARY 1-10 IN CASE THE AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM. HOWLAND

UNQUOTE
NEWSOM

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NNN

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